

October 23, 2008

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

California Department of Transportation  
Highway 299 – Culvert Rehabilitation Project  
WDID No. 1B08109WNHU

Humboldt County

On May 23, 2008 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application and \$500 fee from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), requesting Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the proposed Highway 299 Culvert Rehabilitation project (project). The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States (U.S.) and waters of the State associated with drainages within the Redwood Creek Hydrologic Unit No.107.00.

The proposed project includes three locations along Highway 299 at post mile (PM) 25.85, PM 27.37 and PM 28.36 in Humboldt County. The purposes and objectives of the project are to repair and upgrade the culverts and downdrains to protect the roadway from erosion related structural failures. The proposed construction activities will consist of: installing new corrugated steel pipes; installing a high-density polypropylene culvert liner; replacing headwalls and end sections; installing culvert aprons and downdrains; installing rock slope protection; conducting slope revegetation and erosion control. The proposed project will result in soil disturbances to approximately 0.25-acres, including 880 ft<sup>2</sup> of temporary impacts to the jurisdictional drainages. All areas with disturbed soil will be stabilized with appropriate erosion control and subsequent to the completion of the project the disturbed soil areas will be revegetated.

The proposed project will only result in approximately 80 ft<sup>2</sup> of permanent impacts to waters of the U.S and waters of the State. However, the permanent impacts are associated with the installation of a concrete apron and sand trap Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are ultimately designed to reduce the amount of sediment in the drainage and improve water quality. The proposed project may require a water diversion to conduct the repair/replacement activities. In addition, temporary concrete washout areas will be needed at locations PM 25.85 and PM 28.36. Caltrans will utilize BMPs for all activities including stream work, erosion control and pollution prevention during construction.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform the project under their Nationwide Permits No. 14 (linear transportation projects) pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. Caltrans has determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (Class 1 Categorical Exemption). In addition, Regional Water Board staff also determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1 Categorical Exemption) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption. The proposed project activity is scheduled to be conducted during the summer of 2009, and work in all drainages will only be performed during dry weather.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Jeremiah Puget at (707) 576-2835 or [jpuget@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jpuget@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed road construction activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The related documents and comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.